



# HARVEST OF BLESSINGS

*Cultivating An Attitude of Gratitude*

**FIRST FAMILY NEWS—  
ABOUT ROBERT  
“BOB” MADDEN**

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**KEN RHINE — TEAM  
MEMBER FOR 25 YEARS**

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# First Family News



Photo by Mac Cumpian, Dishman Art Museum

Dishman Art Museum – Featured Artist LINNIS BLANTON (left) discussing his work with former Lamar art professor ROBERT MADDEN (right) this past June in the exhibition “LINNIS BLANTON: Connecting Heaven and Earth”.

## FOCUS ON– ROBERT “BOB” MADDEN

written by Darline Rouse

First UMC is proud to feature Robert “Bob” Madden – an artist, educator, and long-time church member. Madden was recently honored by the Art Museum of Southeast Texas at their annual fundraiser gala. Additionally, the Dishman Art Museum at Lamar University has included several pieces of his work in their permanent collection.

Madden’s 35-year career as an influential art educator has meshed with an equally lengthy career as an artist.

“Sometimes one gets in the way of the other. Sometimes one compliments the other,” Madden said when asked about how his careers as

an educator and artist fit together.

Among Madden’s students who have gone on to significant careers in the world of art are Keith Carter, John Alexander, Marvin Hayes, Dewey Mosby, and Barbara Libersat.

Madden’s artistic urges are expressed these days mostly with pen and ink on paper. His work is found in public and private collections throughout Southeast Texas.

Madden is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, earning a master’s degree from the University of Arkansas in 1956. He and his wife Bonnie have attended First UMC since shortly after they came to Beaumont in 1959.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### Cornerstones

Room 209

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

The Cornerstones class was started in 1971 and is known for its friendliness. The class has contributed to and has led First UMC in all facets of responsibility and ministries. Jim Balfanz usually leads the class discussions, but all members are invited to do so and suggest topics for study. The class has studied books and videos by Max Lucado, Adam Hamilton, and others. They have just completed a study of *The Will of God* by Adam Hamilton. The class supports Some Other Place, the Letchford missionary family in Africa, and the general budget through their Christmas party auctions.

**Contact Jim Balfanz, 409-656-8060**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep our entire First UMC Beaumont community in your prayers.

If you have a specific request, our prayer team would love to be praying with you. Email us –

[prayer@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:prayer@fumcbeaumont.org).

## STAY CONNECTED

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 [First UMC Beaumont](https://www.youtube.com/FirstUMCBeaumont)

 [lovebeaumont.com](https://www.lovebeaumont.com)

 [\(409\) 920-PRAY](tel:(409)920-PRAY)



## KEEPING THE WHEELS ON THE WAGON

*written by Darline Rouse*

Ken Rhine calls himself a custodian, but he is so much more. Over the past 25 years at First UMC, his work spans from providing building maintenance to creating a warm and welcoming space for our church, enabling us to provide ministry opportunities. He prepares our building for Sunday worship and more – setting up and taking down spaces, greeting those who enter, preparing coffee, and beyond.

“I like taking care of the people. Whatever anybody asks me to do, that’s what I do. I just like being at the church and being around

the people. I love my job. In the morning, I can’t wait to get to work,” Rhine said.

Rhine, age 57, grew up in Port Arthur and graduated from Thomas Jefferson in 1983. He and his wife, Demetrie, have four sons and nine grandchildren.

His only request is prayers for his family, the church, and for all our people to come back to church. First UMC has been more-than-blessed to have him as a dedicated staff member and part of the church family.

**And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.**

COLOSSIANS 3:15 NRSV

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### **Sherry Kilgore**

Sherry has a new position working for Lamar State College, PA in the Correctional Education Department. She helps incarcerated men with college educational needs and degree plans so that upon release they may have opportunities for jobs and further education.

Her daughter, Bristol, and her husband, Tristen, are expecting a son to be born in April. Congratulations, Sherry!

### **Shirley Wheeler**

Shirley has been in the hospital but is now at home doing well. We miss her smiling face, and she is anxious to get back to church.

### **Jack and Charlotte Seeley**

Congratulations on your new home! New address is 5660 Longwood, Beaumont, TX 77707. Congratulations on the 1,000th SHP bed delivery!

### **Tom and Mary V. Engelking**

The Engelkings are busy preparing for their move to Calder Woods in November. Be sure to ask them for a cutting of all their wonderful flowers before they move!

### **Valerie Sterner**

Welcome back to First UMC, Valerie! A former member of the New Beginnings Sunday School class, Valerie is living in Lumberton.

Email us your good news, updates, and prayer requests for publication. December Spire submissions – **due November 19th**

**Darline & Mickey Rouse**  
[familynews@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:familynews@fumcbeaumont.org)

# Loving the City

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



## BED BUILD

**Saturday, November 13**

**2950 Milam, Beaumont.**

**Morning Shift - 8:30 a.m. – Noon**

**Afternoon Shift - 12:30 – 4 p.m.**

October's bed build was a great day for SHP's first two shift volunteer bed build. The morning shift of 41 volunteers built 40 beds. The afternoon shift of an additional 19 volunteers built another 24 beds. A total of 65 beds were built on October's Volunteer Build Day!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Beaumont needs your help. After delivering over 1,050 beds, they are in need of financial donations. Each bed costs \$200 to produce and deliver, plus twin size Bed in a Bag Sets. Charitable donations can be mailed to, and Bed in Bag sets shipped to SHP, 5660 Longwood St, Beaumont, 77707. Tax deductible receipts can be provided.

Contact Jack Seeley, SHP for more information.

**To pre register go to –**  
**[bit.ly/shpvolunteer](http://bit.ly/shpvolunteer)**



## SCHOOL DAY TRUNK-OR-TREAT

First UMC set up Trunk-or-Treat tables inside Charlton-Pollard Elementary's gym on October 28 during the school day. Volunteers shared candy and smiles with the students and teachers participating.

## SOME OTHER PLACE

Some Other Place will be sponsoring four projects during the Holiday Season. They are Holiday Food Assistance Program, Christmas Stockings, Children's Christmas Giving Tree and Henry's Place. As you can see, Henry's Place has been added. Volunteers are always welcome at SOP and wrapping will begin December 6-16.

**Holiday Food Drive** – will be for SOP clients that participate in our Christmas Program and SOP's Pantry and Kitchen. Due to First UMC 11/14

**Christmas Stockings** – are for Beaumont's nursing home residents. Due 12/1

**SOP Giving Tree** – is SOP's Christmas Program for children 0-12. They will have their tags ready by November 15 to get an early start this year. Due 12/10

**Henry's Place** – is for our homeless population to have a place to eat breakfast, wash clothes, and shower.

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## ANGEL TREE FOR ONCE UPON A DREAM DAYCARE

### Gifts Due by Sunday, December 12

This year, First UMC will partner with Once Upon A Dream Daycare to provide angel tree gifts to children in need of Christmas presents. Once Upon A Dream provided angel tree wish lists for 34 kids. Pick out a wish list tag next time you are at First UMC. **Contact Phyllis Fernandez for more information - [phyllisbeaumont@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:phyllisbeaumont@fumcbeaumont.org)**

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## INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF BEAUMONT

We are so grateful to be in ministry with you and thank you for who you are! Over the years you have blessed Charlton Pollard Elementary in so many ways including providing school supplies, trunker-treat, encouragement notes, teacher luncheons, and more.

Due to the pandemic and other environmental challenges our brothers and sisters at Charlton Pollard need our continued assistance. At a recent meeting we discovered many of the children are not grade level.

Our God size vision is to embrace this local elementary school with the love of Christ.

There are multiple ways we can partner with God to fulfill this divine mission including:

- Signing up to be a Roar Reader. Due to the pandemic many of the children are not reading at grade level. This could be done in person or virtually.

- Writing encouragement/thank you notes to the teachers twice per academic year.
- Sponsoring a continental breakfast for the teachers or lunch twice a year.
- Tutoring students who have been identified as needing extra help.
- Sharing at career day about your vocation.

If you are interested in partnering with God at Charlton Pollard you will need to fill out a BISD Volunteer application at [www.bmtisd.com/volunteers](http://www.bmtisd.com/volunteers) or see Mrs. Phyllis Fernandez or Pastor Julius Wardley.

Studies show that having caring adults in a child's life can change the trajectory of a young person's life.

## SOP HOLIDAY FOOD LIST

### Donations Due to First UMC

**Sunday, November 14**

- Holiday Foods:**

Pumpkin, Cranberry Sauce, Sweet Potatoes

- **Canned Fruit & Vegetables**

- **Mac & Cheese Mix**

- **Peanut Butter**

- **Jelly**

- **Canned Meats:**

Tuna, chicken, vienna sausage, potted meat

- **Canned Meals:**

Chili, spaghetti

- **Dry Beans**

- **Spaghetti**

- **Condiments:**

ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise

- **Basic seasonings:**

salt & pepper

- **Dry cereal, Oatmeal**

- **Mixes:**

cornbread, pancake, bread, gravy

- **Syrup**

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## HENRY'S PLACE DONATIONS

- Towels**

- Wash cloths**

- Soap- laundry and bath**

- Deodorant, small containers**

- Shampoo, small containers**

- insect repellent wipes**

- Coffee**

- Sugar**

- Creamer**

- Coffee cups - small styrofoam**

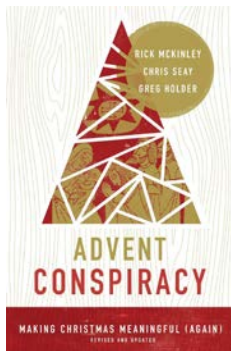
- Breakfast foods (no cooking required)**

- Socks, new**

- Underwear, New**

- Blankets**

## ADVENT STUDY 2021



**Tuesdays beginning  
Nov. 30 - Dec.**

**Noon - Lunch & Learn,  
In-Person**

**7 p.m. via Zoom**

Christmas is coming!

Here comes the decorations. Here comes the carollers. Here comes the lines, to do lists, and ugly sweaters. Ho, ho, ho becomes go, go, go, and before you know it's Christmas. Did you know we spend over 1 trillion dollars globally on Christmas?

If you are looking for a different way to prepare and celebrate Christmas by moving away from consumerism back to the heart of the gospel we will be reading and discussing the book – Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World.

There will be a lunch and learn on Tuesdays starting November 30th at noon in person in the welcome center. We will also gather at 7 p.m. over zoom. These small groups will provide opportunities to connect with one another and grow in grace. This book can be found on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and other book retailers.

**For more information contact Pastor  
Julius at [julius@fumcbeaumont.org](mailto:julius@fumcbeaumont.org) or  
832-588-6413**



## OYSTER & GUMBO SUPPER 2022

First Family -

Mark your calendars!

On Thursday, February 24, 2022, we will resume our mission raising tradition with our annual outreach event – Oyster & Gumbo Supper! Due to continued unknowns and concerns regarding COVID, a shift in our volunteer base, and our great desires to carry on the best of our traditions and love this city with the heart of Christ, we are planning on exclusively serving gumbo to-go for the coming year! We know that you will want to: 1. Save the date on your calendar today! 2. Hear more news about how and when we can help out with this long-standing ministry! And 3. Get your tickets for our 2022 Oyster & Gumbo Supper To-Go! More details to follow!

With deep love and continued commitment to Christ!

*The Oyster & Gumbo Supper Ministry Team*

## SELECTED TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR MOST RECENT SMALL GROUP –

**Quotes from last round of small  
group from Rabbi Kushner's book  
"When: All You've Ever Wanted Isn't  
Enough The Search for a Life that  
Matters" –**

"Thoroughly enjoyed this book and the group participation was enlightening, warm and entertaining at times. Great group of people. The book left me as it found me with confidence that I'm ok. I have a greater sense of what makes me who I am and why." – **Sandra Geter**

"The small group has been life changing for me in several ways. It was diverse in age and race and members possessed a wealth of knowledge. At times it seemed if God was speaking directly to me through others from the group. I have shared with my family members and friends the things I have learned and have invited them to enjoy the classes as well." – **Kenny Sanders**

## WEEKLY RHYTHMS

### SUNDAYS

**Sunday School**  
9:45 a.m.

**Family Worship Service**  
11 a.m.  
In-Person & Livestream

### TUESDAYS

**NOV. 30 - DEC. 21**

**Advent Small Group Begins**  
Noon - In-Person (Lunch & Learn)  
First UMC Welcome Center  
7 p.m. - Via Zoom

### WEDNESDAYS

**Chancel Choir Practice**  
6 p.m.

### DO YOU HAVE UPCOMING EVENTS?

Email event info and pictures to –

**Erika@fumcbeaumont.org**  
**December Spire Deadline for entry**  
**– November 19.**



## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER DATES TO KNOW

### SUNDAY, NOV. 7

**All Saints Day Service**  
11 a.m. Family Worship Service

In our worship service we will honor the lives of our “saints,” those First UMC members who have joined the Church Eternal since November 1, 2020.

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 10

**Games Day - Fellowship & Fun**  
10 a.m. - noon | Small Dining Room  
Contact Ruby Nelson (409)-781-6798

### THURSDAY, NOV. 11

**Lamar Wesley Foundation**  
**Student Dinner**

### SATURDAY, NOV. 13

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build**  
8:30 a.m. - noon, 12:30 - 4 p.m. 2950  
Milam Street, Beaumont, TX  
Pre register at [bit.ly/shpvolunteer](https://bit.ly/shpvolunteer)

### SUNDAY, NOV. 14

**SOP Holiday Food Donations Due**

### FRIDAY, NOV. 19

**Some Other Place**  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### MONDAY, NOV. 22

**Beaumont Interreligious Thanksgiving**  
6 pm

### THURSDAY, NOV. 25

**Thanksgiving Holiday**  
Church Office Closed

### SUNDAY, NOV. 28

**Hanging of the Green**  
11 a.m. Family Worship Service

### Potluck Soup Fellowship Lunch

Bring a crockpot of your favorite soup to share following the Family Worship Service.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 5

**A Celebration of JOY!**  
11 a.m. Family Worship Service

### MONDAY, DEC. 6

**Charge Conference**  
7 p.m. via Zoom

### SUNDAY, DEC. 12

**Breakfast with Santa**

### SUNDAY, DEC. 19

**Lessons & Carols**  
Brunch & Caroling following service

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

**Birth of Christ Celebration #1 - 7 pm**

### FRIDAY, DEC. 24

**Birth of Christ Celebration #2 - 4 pm**  
**Birth of Christ Celebration #3 - 7 pm**

## ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE

**Nov. 7, 11 a.m. Family Worship Service**

This year as we gather for worship on November 7, we will name those of our congregation who have finished their course in faith in the last twelve months. These are those whom we will name: Reverend W.C. Hall, Jr, Jimmy Edward Booker, Robert Patrick “Pat” Green, Rollin Duane “Red” Blough, Temple O. Looney, Dr. James Lester

“Jim” True, Ruby Kilpatrick.

We will include the naming of those in your life who have passed to eternity with “The Book of Remembrance” on the altar where you may write the names of your beloved. The celebration of All Saints is a glorious way to give thanks for those who have shaped our lives and guided us in loving this city with the heart of Christ.



**First United Methodist Church**  
701 Calder Ave.  
Beaumont, Texas 77701



*Loving* the city with the *Heart* of *Christ*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BEAUMONT



# Advent Study

**TUESDAYS IN ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 21**

**Noon** – In-Person, Lunch & Learn

**7 p.m.** – Via Zoom

*Details Inside*

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